



Data Points

CWHS

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

A significant barrier to receiving health care is a lack of health insurance. During the last decade, the proportion of women without health insurance has increased annually.¹ To address this problem, various federal and state programs have initiated reforms to increase access to health insurance and to increase the types of coverage available (e.g., expanding Medi-Cal eligibility by raising the percent poverty test to cover the working poor). However, many women remain uninsured or underinsured which contributes significantly to disparities in access to health care services.

The 1998 California Women's Health Survey asked women aged 18 years and older a series of questions to ascertain health insurance coverage at the time of the interview. Each respondent was asked if she had health insurance coverage through her or her spouse's employment. Further, each woman was asked about the type of coverage: an individual plan, a group plan, Medicare, or other type of government-sponsored coverage.

- Sixteen percent of women under age

65 reported not having health insurance.

- Hispanic women were most likely to report not having any health insurance coverage (36%).
- Among women who completed the interview in Spanish, nearly 50% reported being without health insurance.
- Among Native American women, 19% reported having no health insurance.
- Among White women, 10% reported having no health insurance.
- Among African American women, 9% reported having no health insurance.
- Asian/Pacific Islander women were least likely to report being uninsured (7%).

RACIAL/ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN HEALTH INSURANCE STATUS AMONG CALIFORNIA WOMEN, 1998

Maternal and Child Health Branch

¹ Health Insurance Coverage: 1998, P60-208, U.S. Census Bureau; Health Insurance Coverage: 1997, P60-202, U.S. Census Bureau; Health Insurance Coverage: 1996, P60-199, U.S. Census Bureau; Health Insurance Coverage: 1995, P60-195, U.S. Census Bureau; Health Insurance Coverage: 1994, P60-190, U.S. Census Bureau

Lack of Health Insurance Coverage Among Women Under Age 65 by Race/Ethnicity California, 1998

